

**Robert L. Evans**  
Chairman/President

M/047/0103  
cc: Leslie

November 22, 2011

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
Attn: Paul Baker, Environmental Manager  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Email: [paulbaker@utah.gov](mailto:paulbaker@utah.gov)

**Subject:** Red Leaf Resources, Southwest #1 Large Mining  
Application (M/047/0103), Uintah County, Utah

Dear Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining:

Norwest Corporation (Norwest) has reviewed the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining's (DOGM) tentative approval of Red Leaf Resources' (RLR) Southwest #1 Large Mining Application and supports the approval of this permit application. Our support of this action is based on the factors listed below.

**1. RLR has met all regulatory requirements for permit issuance.**

RLR's permitting effort has met the challenges of a rigorous permitting process managed by DOGM. Detailed environmental, geologic, and mining studies have been completed which indicate that the project can be developed without unacceptable impacts to area's natural resources, and regulatory requirements have been met consistent with permit issuance.

**2. The RLR project has the potential to provide significant economic growth.**

The development of mining and energy projects such as that proposed by RLR typically provide substantial economic stimulus. Benefits accruing from direct and indirect employment, taxes, and royalties paid on state-owned lands can benefit both the regional and state economies.

**RECEIVED**  
**NOV 25 2011**  
**DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING**

November 22, 2011

Letter to Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

**3. Unconventional energy projects such as that proposed by RLR have the potential to assist the nation in meeting important energy security goals.**

Our state is fortunate to host large deposits of oil shale and oil sands resources. Production from such unconventional sources, including RLR's proposed oil shale project, have the potential to reduce our reliance on foreign energy sources with their associated national security and foreign trade balance issues. RLR has made significant investments in the development of their technology, and issuance of this permit is the next step in RLR's objective of commercializing this technology.

Based on the above factors, Norwest endorses the approval of the RLR Southwest #1 mine permit application in Uintah County, Utah. It is our belief that RLR's proposed project has met the regulatory test for issuance of this permit and has the potential to provide significant regional and state economic benefits while providing a valuable national energy resource. We urge DOGM to approve RLR's permit application for this project.

Sincerely,

**NORWEST CORPORATION**



Robert L. Evans  
Chairman/President

Enclosures